Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of G.Ps. with PTs as on 30.6.96	No. of working VPTs in order as on 30.6.96	Total No. of faulty PTs as on 30.6.96
15.	Surendranagar	619	606	13
16.	Surat	684	578	106
17.	Vadodara	719	552	167
18.	Valsad	569	541	80
19.	Dang	52		
20.	Union Territories	19	19	–
		11986	10678	1308

Drug abuse

3317. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attetion of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Statesman" dated June 27, 1996 captioned "Drug abuse cases on the rise in India";

(b) if so, whether the cases of drug abuse are increasing in the country and various authorities have failed to check the drug abuse; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In the absence of any nation wide survey with regard to the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country, it is not possible to say that drug abuse is increasing. However, different studies undertaken indicate an increasing trend in drug abuse.

In order to counteract the increasing demand for dependence producing drugs, the Ministry of Welfare is implementing since 1985-86, a comprehensive Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention. Under this Scheme the Ministry is giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations for setting up of Drug Awareness Counselling Assistance Centres and Drug De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Organising De-addiction Camps and for Awareness Generation Programmes.

As a result of this Ministry's efforts, the number of Centres have increased from 7 in 1985-86 to 363 at present, of which 130 Centres and De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 233 are Counselling Centres.

The Ministry will continue to work for drug demand reduction programmes with greater emphasis on awareness generation, preventive education as well as rehabilitation and social re-integration of the drug addicts.

Use of Coconut Oil

3318. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any steps to popularise the use of coconut oil in other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Central Government has requested all State Governments/UT Administrations to consider the possibility of procurement and supply of adequate quantity of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/cooperative outlets so as to popularise the use of coconut oil as a cooking medium.

(c) The response received from States/UTs so far indicates that the matter is receiving attention. Some States have expressed the view that distribution of coconut oil would not be feasible because of consumer preference to local edible oils as also higher cost taking into account transportation over long distances.